

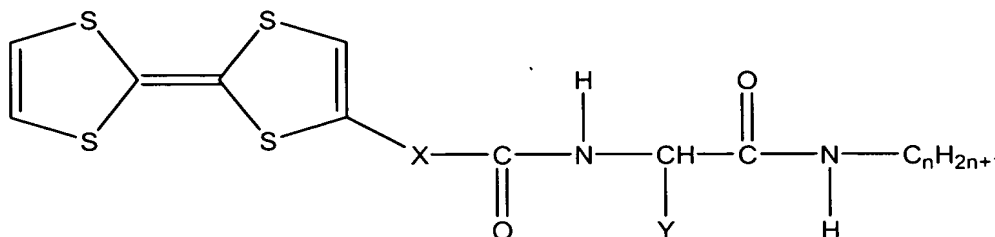
IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims is listed below:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The gelling agent ~~according to claim 1~~, which is composed of a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following general formula (1):

General formula (1):



wherein X denotes a single bond or a divalent organic group, Y denotes a monovalent organic group, and n is an integer of 8 to 18.

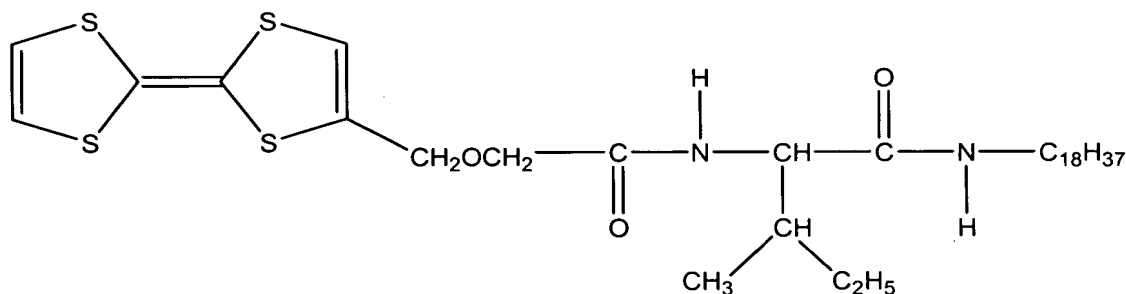
Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a gelling agent, which comprises reacting a tetrathiafulvalene derivative with an amino acid derivative in the presence of 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide hydrochloride and 4-(N,N-dimethylamino)pyridine to obtain a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal composition comprising a liquid crystal compound and a gelling agent, which is mixed with the liquid crystal compound to form a gelling mixture, wherein the liquid crystal compound is composed of a compound

exhibiting a nematic phase or smectic phase, and the gelling agent is the gelling agent according to claim 1 or 2.

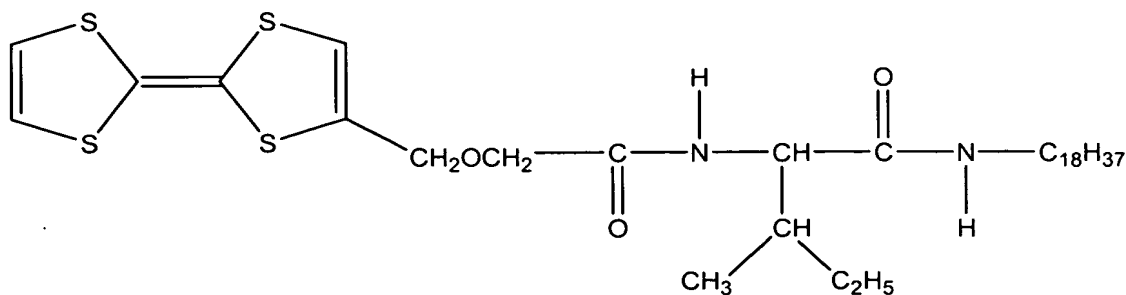
Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal compound is 4-octyl-4'-cyanobiphenyl, and the gelling agent is composed of a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1):



Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, wherein the liquid crystal compound is a mixture of 4-heptyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl and 4-decyloxy-4'-cyanobiphenyl, and the gelling agent is composed of a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following formula (1):

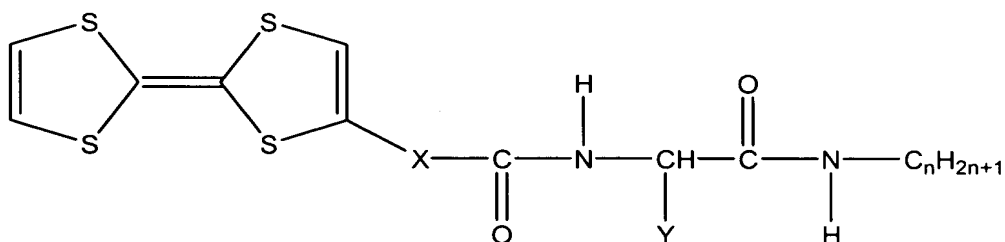
Formula (1):



Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A gelling agent composed of a charge transfer complex comprising, in combination, a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and an electron acceptable compound selected from a group consisting of iodine, bromine and tetracyanoquinodimethane.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The gelling agent according to claim 7, wherein the functional amino acid compound is a compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following general formula (1):

General formula (1):



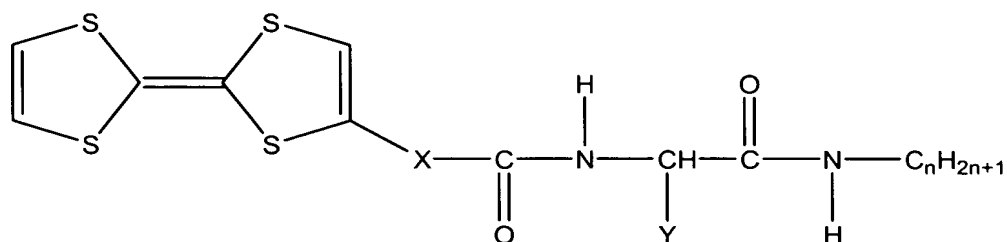
wherein X denotes a single bond or a divalent organic group, Y denotes a monovalent organic group, and n is an integer of 8 to 18.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal composition comprising a liquid crystal compound and a gelling agent, which is mixed with the liquid crystal compound to form a gelling mixture, wherein the liquid crystal compound is composed of a compound exhibiting a nematic phase or smectic phase, and the gelling agent is the gelling agent according to claim 7 or 8.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A charge transfer complex comprising, in combination, a functional amino acid compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and an electron acceptable compound selected from a group consisting of iodine, bromine and tetracyanoquinodimethane.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The charge transfer complex according to claim 10, wherein the functional amino acid compound is a compound having a tetrathiafulvalenyl group and represented by the following general formula (1):

General formula (1):



wherein X denotes a single bond or a divalent organic group, Y denotes a monovalent organic group, and n is an integer of 8 to 18.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been canceled, Claim 2 has been re-written in independent form, and Claim 4 has been amended to depend on Claim 2. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.